

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2007

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, October 22, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser
Vice President Duba
Commissioner Davalos
Commissioner Freeman
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Tanberg

Introduction of the audience followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2007

On motion of Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Vice President Duba with Commissioner Gravely abstaining, and duly carried, the minutes of August 23, 2007 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lesser reported the following:

- On August 30, 2007 she along with Vice President Duba attended and recorded a K-EARTH Community Lights Program segment promoting the upcoming 5K Run/Walk.
- On August 15, 2007, attended the LA County Run for Health and on September 24, 2007, attended the 2nd District Community meeting.
- Attended the Office of Women's Health Summit Workgroup Meeting.
- On October 9, 2007 she spoke at the Lynwood Commission for Women meeting.
- She attended the Human Trafficking and Health conference at UCLA on October 10, 2007.
- She attended the Kidsave "Voices for Change" luncheon in Beverly Hills on October 11, 2007. Honored guests included Jamie Lee Curtis and Bob Woodruff.
- On October 16, 2007, attended the NACW Osteoporosis "Healthy Bone Seminar" for Hispanic Women in Sacramento.

(Commissioner Zebrack arrived at 10:17 a.m.)

- On October 17, 2007, attended Distinguished Speakers with guest speaker Newt Gingrich. She also shared a list of bills that have been signed or rejected by Governor Schwarzenegger.

(Treasurer Creary arrived at 10:25 a.m.)

President Lesser also reported that the next scheduled Commission meeting will be on November 26, 2007 and the holiday lunch will follow the December meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- Distributed the Governor's Conference entry passes to the Commissioners that are registered to attend. The Conference will take place on October 24, 2007.
- Announced that Commissioner Rodriguez has been reappointed with her term to expire on August 29, 2008.
- Distributed copies of the memo explaining the mandatory Sexual Harassment/Cultural Diversity for Commissioners. Staff will be will scheduling training dates.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Creary reported on the expendable allowance for the month of October 2007. The beginning balance as of October is \$21, 289.16; budgeted expenditures were \$550.00; ending balance is \$20, 739.16. The monthly balance for October will be recalculated to include the carryover monthly allowance and will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

(Commissioner Pinedo arrived at 10:37 a.m.)

PRESENTATION FROM SHIELD WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE

Nelson Nio provided information on his organization, SHIELD Women's Self Defense. In addition to teaching self defense classes for women, he started a coalition for women's safety and empowerment. His self defense program consists of a 45 minute lunch and learn. He would like his program to be endorsed Countywide. His program has been taught at the Glendale YWCA, Commission on the Status of Women in Glendale and 20th Century FOX. The Commission thanked Mr. Nio for his outreach and commended him for the work he does for women.

DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUESTS FROM AUDITOR-CONTROLLER. IMPACT ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, NOMINATION PROCEDURES, AND RETREAT FREQUENCY

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Commissioner Davalos, the Commission voted to table this item until the next Commission meeting.

The Finance Committee will also be scheduling a meeting to discuss the issues brought up by the Commission and present the outcome at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED COUNTY COUNSEL CHANGES TO THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S ORDINANCE

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Treasurer Creary, the Commission voted to table this item until the November 26, 2007 meeting.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF RETREAT RESULTS AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE CHANGES

President Lesser presented the Retreat Report submitted by Alicia Jacobs, retreat facilitator and asked Commissioners to email her any revisions. She also distributed copies of the draft Committee Structure. The main change is the deletion of the Legislative Committee.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER/AGENCY SELECTIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTIONS

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that there are no guidelines or criteria for selecting a domestic violence shelter that have been approved. She will email Commissioners the list of shelters in Los Angeles County before the next Commission meeting

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones arrived at 11:17 a.m.)

APPROVAL TO REIMBURSE \$500 TO THE PRESIDENT'S FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION SERVICES EVENT JOURNAL HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 2007

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, the Commission voted to reimburse \$500 to the President's Fund for the purchase of an advertisement in the Southern California Rehabilitation Services event journal.

APPROVAL OF \$200 EXPENDITURE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FUND TO PURCHASE (2) TICKETS TO THE KIDSAVE VOICES FOR CHANGE ADVOCACY EVENT HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2007 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Vice President Duba, the Commission voted to approve a \$200 expenditure from the President's Fund to purchase 2 tickets to the Kidsave Voices for Change advocacy event.

APPROVAL TO DONATE UP TO \$500 FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH THE GLENDALE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN FOR THE FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION OF CARGO: INNOCENCE LOST TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2007

Commissioner Davalos requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, the Commission voted to donate \$500 for the Co-sponsorship with the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women for the film screening and panel discussion of *Cargo: Innocence lost*.

APPROVAL TO DONATE UP TO \$1,000 FOR THE AAUW SANTA MONICA BAY AREA BRANCH LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Following discussion, on motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Commissioner Freeman with Commissioners, Creary, Jernigan, Freeman, and Gravely abstaining, the motion failed.

2008 AWARDS LUNCHEON AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Tanberg presented an overview of the progress of the committee. The theme is "Women of Service" a tribute to our brave women in uniform serving in the war and our dedicated teachers, nurses and community volunteers in the County. Nomination letters have been sent to over 1,300 mailing list members. The deadline for nominations is November 9, 2007. The "Calling for Nominations" Press Release has been sent and the Commission's website has been revised with the current luncheon information. The Committee will select awardees on Thursday, November 15, 2007 and will announce the awardees at the Commission meeting on Monday, November 26, 2007. Commissioner Gravely will be representing the 5th District on the committee. The next meeting will be a teleconference on October 30, 2007.

REVIEW OF THE SECOND DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Commissioner Becerra-Jones thanked the Commissioners that attended the 2nd District Community meeting held on September 24, 2007. Although the event was successful, there are areas for improvement. Commissioner Becerra-Jones suggested that Commissioners should have done more outreach and should consider having a future event on a weekend. She also reported that the venue location did not reach the underserved and there were not enough visitors at the mobile unit. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested collaborating with an organization that already has an evening event scheduled to ensure a larger audience. Treasurer Creary commented that "sitter services" should have been on the flyer, to encourage women with children to attend. The next community meeting will be in held in the Third District.

REVIEW OF THE 5K RUN/WALK

President Lesser thanked Vice President Duba and Nyla Jefferson, Staff, for their hard work. Vice President Duba reported that there were 1,202 registered runners and over 60 vendors. Planning for the event was well organized which made it possible for staff and the Committee to be able to manage this years larger number of participants. The computerized finishing company had an error which resulted in the awards ceremony not to being able to take place. The medals and plaques were mailed to the winners. The results were posted on the Active.com website that same afternoon as the 5K Run/Walk. Next year, the committee plans to use timing chips to accurately record the time of the runners and walkers.

There will be a Committee meeting following the Commission meeting at 12:30 p.m. Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed and refreshments will be served. All Commissioners are welcomed to attend. The official Chair Report will be presented at the November 26, 2007 Commission meeting. Commissioner Becerra-Jones tabulated the exhibitor survey results and presented them to Vice President Duba.

Vice President thanked staff for their assistance and dedication to the success of the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Older Women's: No report.

Health: Commissioner Tanberg reported that the committee is awaiting a response to their letter to Dr. Chernoff voicing their concerns with the King-Harbor closure. She also shared information she received from Jessica St. John. Office of Women's Health . The ABC's of Women's Health booklet has been revised and is available in English and Spanish. The next committee meeting will be a teleconference on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 from 4:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Legislative: Treasurer Creary reported that the State Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation for expanded health care for children and families, was vetoed by the President and Commissioner Jernigan added that 8 votes would be needed to override the veto.

Domestic Violence: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the "Cut It Out" Press Conference with the City of Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women and the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women was a success. She also participated in the Office of Women's Health Summit and will be sharing the Domestic Violence recommendations. Most of these recommendations can only be done by collaborating with other agencies.

Gender Equity: Commissioner Davalos announced that Paula Petrotta has retired as Executive Director of the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women and

would like to invite her to speak at an upcoming meeting. She would like her to speak about the process from CEDAW being a resolution to becoming an ordinance.

Education: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the scholarship deadline has passed and she has made personal contacts with Department of Children and Family Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Probation Department to remind them to send in their applications. The Committee will choose scholarship recipients before the December holiday and host the orientation for the recipients in January.

Media/Public Relations: Commissioner Freeman reported that President Lesser and Vice President Duba were on the K-EARTH Community Lights Program to promote the 5K Run/Walk. Commissioner Freeman would like to thank Vivian Porter from Infinity Broadcasting Corporation for providing a copy of the 15 minute 35 second segment. Infinity Broadcasting includes the WAVE and KFWB. Commissioner Freeman would like staff to make copies of the CD for Vice President Duba.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Geneviève Clavreul commented on the Beilenson Hearing scheduled for October 30, 2007 in the Board Room. She also distributed copies of an article she wrote regarding immigrant nurses and shared a copy of her letter published in the San Diego Tribune, the Wall Street Journal and the Pasadena Star-News.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Davalos invited Commissioners to join her on a teleconference on October 24, 2007 regarding the Fair Pay Restoration Act. Commissioner Rodriguez invited Commissioners to "Speak" performed by the Ross Dance Company. The performance uses modern jazz and spoken word to educate the community about domestic abuse. The performance will be at L.A. Trade Tech College on Saturday November 17, 2007. Tickets are \$20 and \$15 for students. Commissioner Gravely attended a lecture on "Racial Disparities in Adverse Birth Outcomes" at the Western Justice Center in Pasadena on October 4, 2007. Commissioner Jernigan reported that she attended a job fair for working women hosted by NWB and took over 100 applications and will provide the Commission information on future job fairs.

Treasurer Creary attended the following events:

- The Cobb Institute's National Technical Advisory Panel Meeting in Washington D.C. on September 26-27, 2007.
- The Black Women's Agenda Health Workshop and Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Washington, D.C. on September 28, 2007.
- The 26th Annual Charity/Scholarship Luncheon in Torrance on October 13, 2007
- The Inglewood-Pacific Scholarship Luncheon in Torrance on October 14, 2007. Ben Vereen was the Master of Ceremonies.
- She will be speaking at the Ebell Theatre on October 29, 2007. She will be a panel speaker for the "Working Women and Families Making It Work".

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda): There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Lesser, President
Reiko Duba, Vice President
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Karin Davalos
Peggy Freeman
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Commissioner Pinedo
Olivia Rodríguez
Bobbie Jean Tanberg
Elise ZeBrack

EXCUSED

Janet Mummey, Esq.

UNEXCUSED

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, Executive Office
Mercedes Calzadillas, OACC

GUESTS

Geneviève Clavreul
Kurt Freeman
Cynthia Edwards
Nelson Nio